

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An aqueous ink comprising a dispersant, a colorant, and an aqueous medium, wherein the dispersant is a crosslinked copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and containing (A) a crosslinkable monomer having two or more vinyl groups in one molecule, ~~30 to 90 of~~ (B) an aromatic group-containing monomer, and (C) an ionic monomer.

2. (previously presented/article 11 amendment): The aqueous ink according to claim 1, wherein the above dispersant is a crosslinked copolymer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 100,000 and comprising 0.01 to 5 mol% of (A) a crosslinkable monomer having two or more vinyl groups in one molecule, 30 to 90 mol% of (B) an aromatic group-containing monomer, and 5 to 65 mol% of (C) an ionic monomer.

3. (original): The aqueous ink according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the (C) ionic monomer as a constituting component of the above dispersant is an anionic monomer.

4. (original): The aqueous ink according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the (C) ionic monomer as a constituting component of the above dispersant is a cationic monomer.

5. (currently amended): The aqueous ink according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 4, wherein a ratio of the above dispersant to the colorant contained is 1:1 to 1:30 (mass ratio).

6. (currently amended): The aqueous ink according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 5, wherein the colorant is a pigment.

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7. (currently amended): The aqueous ink according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~,
wherein the colorant is carbon black.